

version of each amended claim, on one or more separate pages attached hereto at Tab A, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of that claim.

A Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith, requesting that the time period for responding to the Office Action be extended for a period of two months (*i.e.*, from December 10, 2002 up to and including February 10, 2003, accompanied by the appropriate extension fees). It is believed that no other fees are required for this response. However, should the USPTO determine that any additional fee is required or that any refund is owed for this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge the required fee(s) and/or credit the refund(s) due to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 14-26, 40-42, 51-53, and 62-64, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 7, 13, 33, 39, 47, 48, 58 and 59 as indicated at Tab A, so that the claims read as follows:

7. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25); and

wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28).

13. (Twice Amended) A method as defined in claim 12, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25); and

wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28).

33. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 32, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

- (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25);

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);
and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

- (d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID
NO. 14>; and
(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID
NO. 15>.

39. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 38, wherein said probes
comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ
ID NO. 13> and
(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25);

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);
and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

- (d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>; and
- (e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.

47. (Amended) A kit as defined in claim 45, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and
- (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25); and

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).

48. (Amended) A kit as defined in claim 46, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5' -TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

- (b) 5'-CCTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25);

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);

and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group

consisting of

- (d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID
NO. 14>; and
(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID
NO. 15>.

58. (Amended) A kit as defined in claim 56, wherein said probes
comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTACTCGGCT- 3' (C252-25-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 13> and
(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT- 3' (C252-27-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25);

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5' -GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)
<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).

59. (Amended) A kit as defined in claim 57, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and
- (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25);

wherein said probes comprise

- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);

and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

- (d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>; and
- (e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.

REMARKS

Claim 1-64 were pending in this application. Claims 14-26, 40-42, 51-53 and 62-64 have been canceled, without admission and without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 13, 33, 39, 47, 48, 58 and 59 have been amended to delete the inadvertent reference to C143F26, a primer that is no longer recited in the independent base claims.